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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Kanji NAKAMURA, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/838,340

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Known

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Known

Filed: April 20, 2001

Examiner: Not Yet Known

For: RECYCLE OF GRINDNG SLUDGE

*Pre Amended*  
*#3/A*  
*7/23/01*  
*B. Ross*

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED  
JUN 25 2001  
TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

*/* Please cancel claims 35 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

*Sub*  
*B1*

*42*  
*--43* (New). The compressed solid material as claimed in claim 34, wherein the hollow defined in the compressed solid material extends completely across the length of the compressed solid material with its opposite ends opening outwardly through respective end faces thereof.

*A1*

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The compressed solid material as claimed in claim 43, wherein the ratio of an inner diameter D2 of the cylindrical hollow relative to an outer diameter D1 of the compressed solid material is  $D2/D1 = 0.40$  to  $0.60$ ---